
President's Speech

by Shing-Tung Yau

On August 7, 2016, a large group of Chinese mathematicians gathered in Beijing and declared the establishment of a new organization called International Consortium of Chinese Mathematicians (ICCM). The charter of this new organization is published in this issue of ICCM Notices. This is an organization consisting of mathematicians of Chinese descent spread all around the world. The major function is to promote and advance mathematics within the community of Chinese mathematicians and to building good relationship of Chinese mathematicians with mathematicians of other countries.

The idea of forming such an organization went back to 1998 when the first International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians (also called ICCM) was held in Beijing. We held this congress once every three years. The location of the congress had been moved from Beijing to Taipei, Hong Kong, Hangzhou, Beijing, Taipei and Beijing consecutively.

Over the years, the number of participants has grown from 250 to over 2000 people. Besides the fundamental support of the local organizers, we also have strong support from the Morningside Foundation of Hong Kong. They provided the means for the opening ceremony which is held in prestige places in the city where the conference held. Morningside Gold and Silver Medals were given each time. We have later added a few more awards which include the Chern Prize and the International Cooperation Award. The recipients of all these awards were mathematicians with great achievements. In the case of Chern Prize, we also award its medal to non-mathematicians who made serious contribution to development of mathematics. The most notable case were the awards to President Lee of Taiwan University and to Mr. Ronnie Chan, one of the founders of the Morningside Foundation. In general, there are more than 150 mathematicians who come all over the world to give talks

in mathematics. Some of the speakers are not Chinese. The Morningside Lecturers are mathematicians with outstanding achievements. We are glad to find out that the ICCM brought mathematicians coming all over the world to be close together. Not only important ideas were communicated, friendships were built for many participants who may not have chance to meet each other.

After the success of these meetings, we decide to expand our function so that we can serve the Chinese mathematics community much better. After all, the growth of economics of China means growth of investment into research and education. We witness the rapid growth of young Chinese mathematicians spread all over the world. We need to form the ICCM to organize meetings, publishing magazines, books and journals together. When I proposed this idea of forming ICCM, we see great enthusiasm by our fellow Chinese mathematicians. The organization has no interest in anything other than scholarly work and promoting mathematics related activities. We like to work with our friends in mathematics in other countries.

The establishment of the ICCM enables us to create much more activities than what we can handle before. For example, we have formed a consortium of applied mathematicians which we ran one conference per year within China. We also started an archive called MathSciDoc which intends to put all papers related to mathematics online. We intend to have an annual meeting to meet and also to give awards of various kinds.

I believe the forming of ICCM will greatly strengthen the research and education of mathematics among mathematicians of Chinese descent. I also hope that the ICCM will promote friendship among Chinese mathematicians and mathematicians in the world.